

3.0010 A New Species of *Metamasius* from Panama (Curculionidae, Rhynchophorinae)

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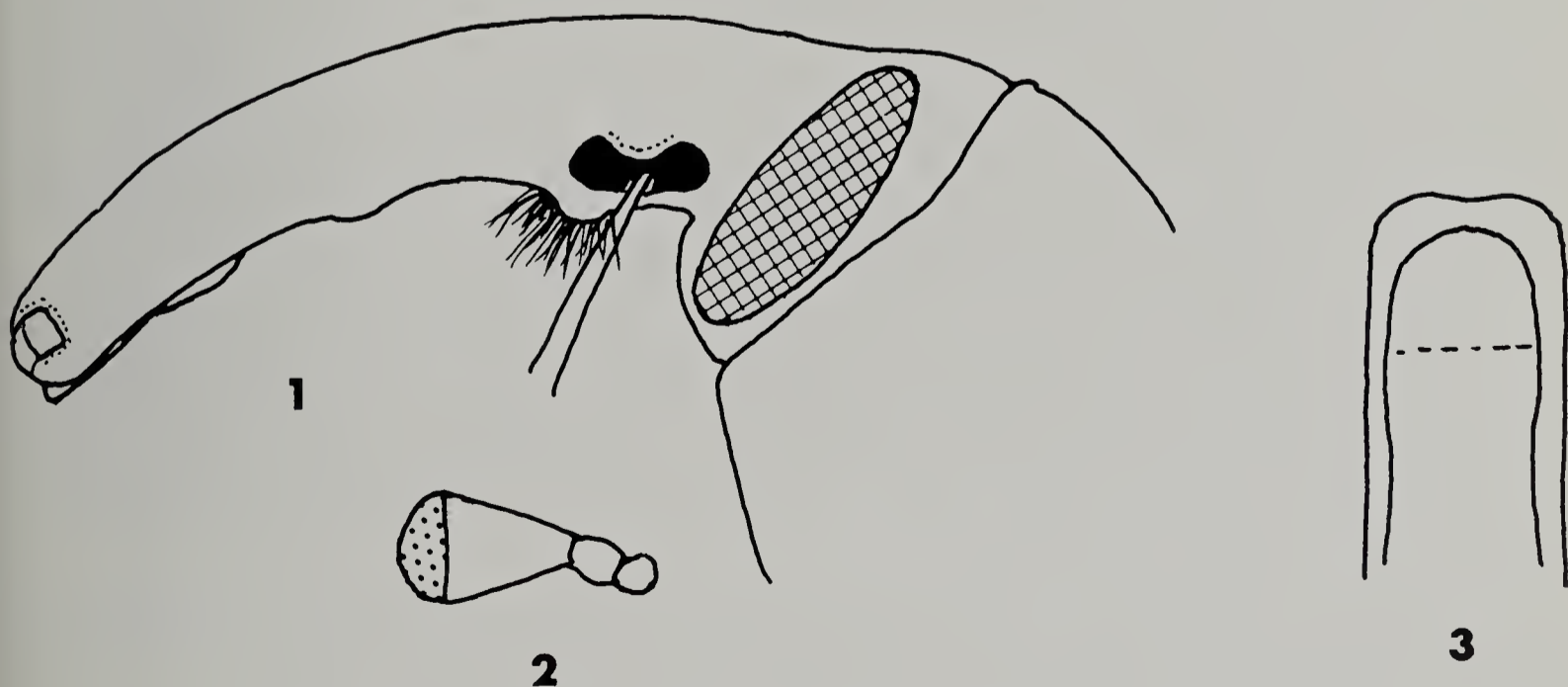
The species described below comes from the collection of Dr. Carlos Bordon Azzali of Caracas, Venezuela. Although there is one specimen only, a male, the species presents a combination of characters which distinguish it at once from other males of this large genus (104 species) of New World weevils. In the revision of the genus (Vaurie, 1966, 1967), three species were recorded from females only. Two of these (*monilis* and *personatus* Vaurie) belong in a different group as they have embossed orange or reddish spots on the elytra and no lateral line on the aedeagus. The other female without a matching male is the unique type of *semirubripes* Hustache which differs as noted in the key below.

METAMASIUS CRINITUS, n. sp.

Figs. 1-3

Type, male, Cerro Campana, Panama, October 8, 1967, R. L. Dressler, collector, in the collection of Dr. Carlos Bordon A., Caracas.

Diagnosis: Differing from all species by having under the beak a distinct tuft of long, dense, coarse, yellow hairs emerging from between the two large basal teeth (Fig. 1) Otherwise resembling *sierrakowskyi* Gyllenhal and allies in the stout body, stout, cylindrical beak, U-shaped scutellum, and strongly sinuate base of the pronotum, but differing from them by having the femora and episternal pieces punctate, not impunctate, and in the absence of long, male tibial hairs.



Figs. 1-3. *Metamasius crinitus*. 1. Head and beak, showing under side of beak with apical sinuation, middle angle, and basal tooth with hairs. 2. Antennal club. 3. Apical part of aedeagus.

Description of Type, Male: Black, but beak and tibiae red with black apices; some femora red toward base. Length, excluding beak, 15 mm. Beak arcuate, cylindrical, almost as stout as front femur, finely, densely punctate; in profile view lower edge at base toothed and coarsely hairy, at middle feebly angulate, near apex bisinuate. Peduncle of postmentum feebly vertically bilamellate. Antennae inserted close to eye, club with apical spongy part about one-third of whole. Pronotum distinctly longer than wide, punctate on sides and apex and on each side of impunctate median line, impunctate areas forming feebly elevated "M;" base strongly margined, at middle strongly sinuate. Elytra about one-third longer than pronotum, intervals wide, flat, virtually impunctate, at base straight; striae impressed, punctures smaller than those at base of pronotum and separated by from two to four times their diameter. Scutellum U-shaped, feebly concave in front. Pygidium only slightly narrowing to truncate apex.

Prosternum not hairy, slightly swollen in front of each coxa; venter strongly punctate except on virtually impunctate mesosternum; distance between front coxae about one-fourth of diameter of coxa, between middle coxae about equal to diameter; last segment of abdomen without hairs; femora punctate; tibiae straight; third segment of front tarsus as wide as antennal club, of hind tarsus slightly narrower, of front and middle tarsi slightly asymmetrical; third segment of all tarsi ventrally with hairy pads except in V-shaped basal area which is glabrous. Aedeagus (Fig. 3) apically feebly emarginate.

Remarks: *M. crinitus* belongs in Species Group I of *Metamasius* because of the lateral line on the aedeagus dividing the dorsal and ventral portions, but it resembles the majority of species of Species Group III by having the beak at the apex in dorsal view wider, not narrower, than the space between the front coxae. The six species of the *sierrakowski* subgroup of Species Group I, however, also have a wide beak combined with a lateral line on the aedeagus, and therefore *crinitus* may as well be associated with this subgroup, even though it does not agree with all the attributes of the subgroup given by Vaurie (1966, p. 236). Males of two species of this subgroup (*sanguinipes* Hustache and *tibialis* Waterhouse) agree with *crinitus* by having basal teeth and median angle under the beak, but they lack the cluster of hairs and the sinuations. In other species of the genus (males of *peruanus* Hustache and of *cinnamominus* Perty, and both sexes of *barbatulus* and *personatus* Vaurie) there are hairs under the beak, but they are arranged in a long fringe, not a basal tuft.

Another species to add to this subgroup is *semirubripes* Hustache (unique female described from Chanchamayo, Peru) which, for lack of a male, appeared in Vaurie (1967, p. 258) as *Incertae Sedis*. It is so similar to *crinitus* that I am almost certain that the male, when recognized, will have the proper aedeagus characteristic of Species Group I.

In my key (Vaurie, 1966, p. 242) *crinitus* goes to couplet 47. With the elimination of the scutellum in this couplet, *crinitus* would then proceed to 49 which would also need a slight change and which should then read:

49(47). Base of beak coarsely, confluent punctate and with deep median impressed line
 -----sulcirostris (in part)

	Base of beak finely, if at all, punctate, and median impression deep or not	49a
49a(49).	Scutellum elongate-triangular	50
	Scutellum broadly U-shaped, slightly concave in front	49b
49b(49a).	Dorsum black, surface smooth; elytral intervals at base flat; beak at base under antennal scrobes toothed and hairy; Panama; male	crinitus , n. sp.
	Dorsum brown, surface uneven; elytra with fourth interval and its striae at base de- pressed; beak ventrally neither toothed or hairy; Peru; female	semirubripes

LITERATURE CITED

- VAURIE, P. 1966. A revision of the neotropical genus *Metamasius* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Rhynchophorinae). Species Groups I and II. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 131: 211-338.
 1967. *Ibid.* Species Group III. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 136: 175-268.
- DESCRIPTORS: Coleoptera; Curculionidae; *Metamasius*; new species; Panama.

BOOK REVIEW

SELANDER, R. B. AND J. M. MATHIEU. 1969. Ecology, Behavior, and Adult Anatomy of the Albida Group of the Genus *Epicauta* (Coleoptera, Meloidae). Illinois Biological Monographs, No. 41, 168 pp., 60 figs. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Ill. Price \$5.95.

In this volume is presented a systematic study of eight species of blister beetles. Specimens were studied in detail in both the laboratory and in the field. Several preliminary chapters are devoted to method and to the composition and systematic position of the group. This is followed by a long chapter covering bionomics. One of the major elements of this chapter is devoted to the food choices of the various species. Data are also presented on seasonal distributions of the species, longevity, cleaning habits, and all aspects of behavior other than sexual. The next chapter is entirely concerned with sexual activity, this being described in great detail. Most of the 60 figures and photos depict courting and mating activities. This chapter is followed by one on adult anatomy and this in turn by one on the interrelationships among the various species. The last chapter contains a key to the adults with a listing of the synonymy and locality records for each species.

This writer enjoyed this book. He feels that it should serve as a model for the study of insect ecology and ethology. The writer sees such studies as making up one of the major aspects of entomological research of the future. Only through the results of work like this will we ever understand the hows, wheres, and whys of insect life. This reviewer feels that this work is very well done. It is highly recommended for a position in the library of the entomologist where it can be consulted as a most useful model or design for research in entomology.—N. M. D.